

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6698

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 21838

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FOR SHINN FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. RE READER'S DIGEST PROJECT TO DO A STORY ON THE
EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR HAS INSTRUCTED US TO AWAIT
WASHINGTON REACTION BEFORE RESPONDING TO A
LETTER WE RECEIVED FROM THE DIGEST. OUR IMPRESSION
IS THAT THE AMBASSADOR WILL TAKE IT UP WHILE HE IS
THERE.

2. FEEDING OF VISITORS:

A. AS YOU ARE AWARE,PENTECOSTALS' AND OVSEPYAN
FAMILY'S FOOD BEING CONTRIBUTED ON VOLUNTARY BASIS
BY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MOSCOW. WHILE
THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO MAKE SUCH CONTRI-
BUTIONS, WE DO NOT THINK THAT THEY SHOULD BE IMPOSED
ON TO CONTINUE THIS BURDEN INDEFINITELY.

B. INVIEW OF FACT THAT EMBASSY HAS NO OFFICIAL FUNDS
AVAILABLE TO SUBSIDIZE RESIDENT GUESTS, WE TURN TO
DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE.

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C. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO VIABLE OPTIONS.
THE FIRST AND MOST DESIRABLE OPTION WOULD BE FOR THE
DEPARTMENT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR MAINTAINING THE
TEN PERSONS STAYING IN EMBASSY. (WE ARE WORKING
ON AN ESTIMATE, WHICH WILL RANGE BETWEEN \$2 AND \$5
A DAY PER PERSON OR \$7,300 TO \$18,250 ANNUALLY. IF

THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE, HOWEVER, EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT DEPARTMENT EXPLORE WITH PENTECOSTALIST ROOF ORGANIZATION IN U.S. POSSIBILITY OF ITS SUBSIDIZING THEM. IN THAT EVENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE RAISED THROUGH AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF OUR GUESTS, SINCE IF WORD OF SUCH PUBLICITY WOULD REACH SOVIETS IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE FURTHER NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THEIR ALREADY HARD-LINE ATTITUDE. IF FUNDS WERE TO BE ACCEPTED FROM PENTECOSTAL OFFICIALS, IT SHOULD THEREFORE BE NON-PUBLICIZED, ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

D. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CHECKING THESE OPTIONS WITH AMBASSADOR TOON BEFORE WE MAKE A PROPOSAL THROUGH THE FRONT CHANNEL.

3. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR ARMENIAN STAYIN, LIZA OVSEPYAN, WHO HAS BEEN SHOWING INCREASING SIGNS OF INSTABILITY. FROM THE VERY START, SHE APPEARED TO BE LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO RATIONAL DIALOGUE THAN THE PENTECOSTALS. BUT SHE HAS SINCE SHOWN A TENDENCY TO SWINGS IN MOOD, AND IS SOMETIMES COMATOSE AND USUALLY EXTREMELY DEPRESSED. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO TRY TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST HERSELF. BUT WE ARE PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE TWO BOYS IN THE HANDS OF THEIR UNSTABLE MOTHER. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT IN THEIR INTEREST TO STAY IN THE EMBASSY INDEFINITELY. CONFIDENTIAL

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IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY TRAGIC IF THE DECISION TO DO SO AND HENCE DOOM THEIR FUTURE WERE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF A PERSON NOT CAPABLE OF MAKING A RATIONAL DECISION. FOR THESE REASONS WE ARE THINKING OF RECOMMENDING THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER SENDING AN ARMENIAN-SPEAKING PSYCHIATRIST TO CHECK HER MENTAL CONDITION. DEPENDING ON HIS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WE WOULD DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT. IF YOU SEE NO PROBLEMS IN THIS, YOU MIGHT TRY IT OUT ON THE AMBASSADOR BY PHONE.

4. COULD YOU ALSO CHECK WITH THE AMBASSADOR THE DATE THAT HE WOULD LIKE A SUPPORT FLIGHT TO RETURN TO MOSCOW?

5. ANY WORD ABOUT GORDON SHOUSE?

6. DID VASEV EVER RESPOND TO MARK'S REPRESENTATION ABOUT BREMENT?
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